US EMBASSY QUITO



Warden Message

December 11, 2007

Dear Warden:

Please share the following information with the American citizens on your warden list, and any other Americans you know, as soon as possible. Please contact the American Citizen Services section via E-mail (ConsularQuito@state.gov), fax 2561-524, or telephone 2562-890 ext. 4561 if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

This is to inform Americans living and traveling in Ecuador that the incidence of violent crime on Pichincha volcano (in Quito) appears to be rising. We recommend that Americans not hike to the summit, even if hiking in groups or beginning at the top of the Teleferico cable car. In recent months, there have been several armed assaults, with groups as large as eight people. American tourists have been robbed at gun point and sexually assaulted while hiking on the mountain. Should you find yourself in a similar situation as described above, remain calm, do not make any furtive or quick movements that could be misinterpreted by the attacker, and surrender all property as requested.

If you are the victim of a violent crime, please contact local police and the U.S. Embassy in Quito or the U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil.

Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website, https://travelregistration.state.gov, and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. Please see the following links for local warden message information in Quito and Guayaquil, respectively, at http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/security-and-safety/warden-messages.html and http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov/warden-messages.html

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department's Internet web site at http://travel.state.gov where the current Travel Warnings and Public Announcements, including the Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, can be found. Up-to-date information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S., or for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll-line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is located at the corner of Avenida 12 de Octubre and Avenida Patria (across from the Casa de la Cultura). The telephone during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) is (011) 593 2 256 2890 X4561. For after-hours emergencies use (011) 593 2 256 1749. The fax is (011) 593 2 256 1-524. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls. See also the Embassy web site at http://ecuador.usembassy.gov

The U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil is located at the corner of 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno (near the Hotel Oro Verde); telephone (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or 232-1152 for after-hours emergencies; fax (011-593-4) 232-0904. See the Consulate General web site at http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov/.